



At the Exploratorium

Winter Series 1986

Hosted by Charles Amirkhanian

SPEAKING OF MUSIC

A Conversation with
Keith Jarrett

The Master's Voice

January 23, 1986
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

KEITH JARRETT

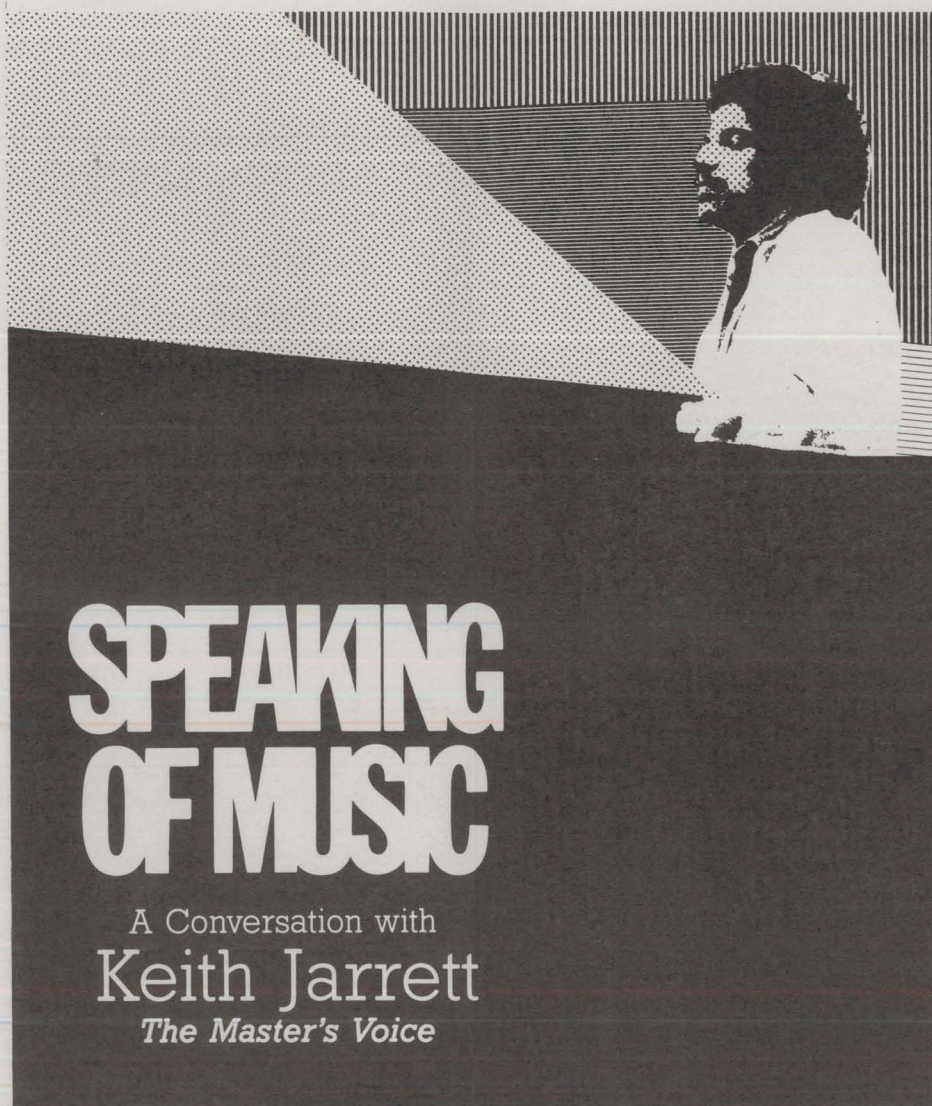
Keith Jarrett, born on May 8, 1945, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, began playing the piano at the age of three. By the age of seven he was making up original melodies and improvising on them, and beginning to perform full-length solo recitals. He began formal studies in composition at fifteen and a year later gave a piano concert devoted exclusively to his own works before moving to Boston as a scholarship student at the Berklee School.

Finding the experience there unsatisfactory, Jarrett moved to New York where, in his late teens, he began a distinguished jazz career. From 1964 to 1971 he worked with Art Blakey, Charles Lloyd, and Miles Davis to great critical acclaim. In 1968 Jarrett organized his own trio with Charles Haden, bass, and Paul Motian, drums, began recording for Atlantic, and undertook a lengthy European Tour.

The early seventies found him a member of one of the most impressive of Miles Davis' bands, but Jarrett continued to perform with his trio and in 1972, after their second extended European tour, he added saxophonist Dewey Redman, completing the personnel of his quartet.

During the mid-seventies, Jarrett undertook a series of solo concert tours and recordings which have garnered his greatest international attention. He performed several hundred spontaneously composed and improvised pieces which, along with his solo studio performances, resulted in 21 LP's which have sold 5,000,000 copies worldwide.

In addition, Jarrett recorded a two-record ECM release on the Karl Joseph Riepp baroque organ in a small Benedictine Abbey in Ottenheim, West Germany. *Hymns/Spheres* was released in 1976 and included unusual effects accomplished by pulling certain stops part way, while others remained completely opened or closed.



Jarrett also has composed works for chamber orchestras and large orchestras, usually with solo parts for himself and members of his trio or quartet. *Arbour Zena* (ECM, 1976) features Jarrett, saxophonist Jan Garbarek, and bassist Charlie Haden with string orchestra.

CHARLES AMIRKHANIAN has been Music Director of KPFA Radio in Berkeley since 1969. Since 1983 he has been host and programmer for the Exploratorium's SPEAKING OF

MUSIC series which began in 1972. The American Music Center awarded him its Letter of Distinction for outstanding service to contemporary American composers in 1984. A composer in his own right, Amirkhanian's most recent album is a text-sound composition, *Mental Radio*.

SPEAKING OF MUSIC is made possible with the support of The California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer/California, and the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.

SPEAKING OF MUSIC

With human perception as its central theme, the Exploratorium has always used the insights of both scientists and artists to establish notions of how one sees, knows, and understands the world.

SPEAKING OF MUSIC is one of many Exploratorium programs that seeks to discover why things are the way they are: how the artist, as well as the scientist, probes, investigates, interprets nature, and makes decisions.

At the Exploratorium, participation is the key, so we encourage you to ask questions of our guests.

Upcoming events in this series include performance/discussions with Morton Feldman (Thursday, January 30), Gavin Bryars (Thursday, February 13th), Pierre Boulez (Sunday, February 16th, Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 2:00pm), and Charles Dodge (Thursday, February 27th). All events (except Pierre Boulez) will be held in the McBean Theater starting at 8:00pm on the aforementioned dates. Reservations may be made by calling (415) 563-4545. SPEAKING OF MUSIC will resume presentations in September 1986.

Tonight's event (as are all SPEAKING OF MUSIC presentations) is being recorded for broadcast over KPFA FM/94 in Berkeley. For information on dates of broadcasts, produced by Russ Jennings and engineered by Tony Ferro, consult the KPFA Folio.

SPEAKING OF MUSIC participant Frank Zappa will appear on a special day-long broadcast surveying his music February 10th (Monday) from 9:00am to 11:00pm on KPFA. Charles Amirkhanian will host the event.

Acknowledgments: Vincent Ryan, Manfred Eicher, Dennis Russell Davies, Larry Shaw (Technical Director), Jamie Bell (Box Office Manager), and the Exploratorium volunteer staff.

Director of Performance Programs at the Exploratorium: Priscilla Cohen



THE EXPLORATORIUM

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